

February 24, 2017

From: Matthew Brown
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To: US EPA National FOIA Coordinator
Nancy Grantham, Public Affairs, US EPA
Dana Stalcup, Associate Director, Remediation and Assessment, US EPA

Greetings,

As a reporter for The Associated Press I'm seeking details on the discharge of contaminated water from mining sites that fall under the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and other laws. Specifically, I am seeking information collected or held by the agency that would shed light on the continuing environmental and public health problems posed by these sites as well as the agency's ongoing attempts to address them.

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of the following documents as kept by the EPA, its contractors and partner agencies:

1. **Any and all memos, reports, emails, data or other documents that detail known or estimated discharge flow rates, discharge contaminant loads and receiving bodies of water for mining sites listed, proposed or deleted from the National Priorities List (NPL), non-NPL sites being addressed through the Superfund Alternative Approach and any other mining sites under EPA authority ("EPA mining sites"). A list of some of these sites is attached and available on EPA's website here: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/abandoned-mine-lands-site-information> .**

2. **Any and all memos, reports, emails, data or other documents that detail whether discharged water from EPA mining sites is being treated, stored or otherwise handled in an attempt to remove such contaminants, including amounts or proportions of the discharge being captured.**
3. **Any and all memos, reports, emails, data or other documents that detail human health issues or environmental problems known or suspected to stem from discharged water from EPA mining sites.**

I would like to receive the information in an electronic format if possible. Please provide information as it is available rather than waiting to compile all the information before releasing it.

I am making this request as a fulltime reporter with The Associated Press as part of newsgathering and not for commercial use. As such, I ask that you waive any and all applicable fees.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of federal law. I also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I ask that you provide expedited review of this request, which concerns a newsworthy matter of current exigency to the public that extends beyond the public's general right to know about government activity and that implicates immediate concerns with ongoing contamination of waterways by EPA mining sites. The information sought relates to a currently unfolding story in which there is substantial interest, given the nation's largest news organizations' including The AP's decision to provide in-depth, ongoing coverage of the problems posed by abandoned mining sites across the United States. Second, delaying urgent release of the information harms the public interest in withholding key information from the public.

The magnitude of the problem posed by abandoned mines has been highlighted by numerous government agencies including EPA, the Government Accountability Office, the Department of Interior, and others,

which have estimated the existence of 161,000 abandoned mines across Western states and as many as 500,000 nationwide. Additionally, the EPA and other agencies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars attempting to clean up such sites and Congress has held numerous hearings on the issue. Information from government agencies indicates that many of these mines discharge pollutants into streams and other waterways on an ongoing basis, affecting water supplies and fisheries and in some cases killing all aquatic life. The AP is requesting further details on EPA mining sites in a desire to illustrate the scope, nature and complexity of this issue and advance public understanding of the topic.

As the world's oldest and largest news organization, The AP is a credible requester. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited review are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

In the interest of streamlining the response to this request and reducing the workload it places upon the agency, **please let me know of any refinements to the request that could expedite the process. We are open to limiting or altering the scope of the request pursuant to any guidance the EPA can offer.** Please communicate with me by telephone 406-696-4213 or e-mail mbrown@ap.org.

I look forward to your prompt response. Thank you for your assistance.

Matthew Brown, The Associated Press

ATTACHED: Partial list of EPA mining sites from agency website
(<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/abandoned-mine-lands-site-information>)

Mining Sites: Proposed, Final and Deleted NPL Sites and non-NPL SAA Sites

Site Name	Region	State	EPA ID	NPL Status	SAA?
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<u>WHITEWOOD CREEK</u>	8	South Dakota	SDD980717136	Deleted	No
<u>WASHINGTON COUNTY LEAD DISTRICT - RICHWOODS</u>	7	Missouri	MON000705032	Final	No
<u>WASHINGTON COUNTY LEAD DISTRICT - POTOSI</u>	7	Missouri	MON000705023	Final	No
<u>WASHINGTON COUNTY LEAD DISTRICT - OLD MINES</u>	7	Missouri	MON000705027	Final	No
<u>WASHINGTON COUNTY LEAD DISTRICT - FURNACE CREEK</u>	7	Missouri	MON000705842	Final	No
<u>W.R. GRACE & CO., INC./WAYNE INTERIM STORAGE SITE (USDOE)</u>	2	New Jersey	NJ1891837980	Deleted	No
<u>VASQUEZ BOULEVARD AND I-70</u>	8	Colorado	CO0002259588	Final	No
<u>US MAGNESIUM</u>	8	Utah	UTN000802704	Final	No
<u>URAVAN URANIUM PROJECT (UNION CARBIDE CORP.)</u>	8	Colorado	COD007063274	Final	No
<u>UPPER TENMILE CREEK MINING AREA</u>	8	Montana	MTSFN7578012	Final	No
<u>UNITED NUCLEAR CORP.</u>	6	New Mexico	NMD030443303	Final	No
<u>U.S. TITANIUM</u>	3	Virginia	VAD980705404	Final	No
<u>U.S. SMELTER AND LEAD REFINERY, INC.</u>	5	Indiana	IND047030226	Final	No
<u>U.S. RADIUM CORP.</u>	2	New Jersey	NJD980654172	Final	No
<u>TULSA FUEL AND MANUFACTURING</u>	6	Oklahoma	OKD987096195	Final	No
<u>TORCH LAKE</u>	5	Michigan	MID980901946	Final	No
<u>TEX-TIN CORP.</u>	6	Texas	TXD062113329	Final	No
<u>TELEDYNE WAH CHANG</u>	10	Oregon	ORD050955848	Final	No
<u>TAR CREEK (OTTAWA COUNTY)</u>	6	Oklahoma	OKD980629844	Final	No

Mining Sites: Proposed, Final and Deleted NPL Sites and non-NPL SAA Sites

Site Name	Region	State	EPA ID	NPL Status	SAA?
<u>SUMMITVILLE MINE</u>	8	Colorado	COD983778432	Final	No
<u>SULPHUR BANK MERCURY MINE</u>	9	California	CAD980893275	Final	No
<u>STIBNITE/YELLOW PINE MINING AREA</u>	10	Idaho	IDD980665459	Proposed	No
<u>STAUFFER CHEMICAL CO. (TARPON SPRINGS)</u>	4	Florida	FLD010596013	Final	No
<u>STANDARD MINE</u>	8	Colorado	CO0002378230	Final	No
<u>SOUTHWEST JEFFERSON COUNTY MINING</u>	7	Missouri	MON000705443	Final	No
<u>SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN</u>	8	Colorado	COD980806277	Deleted	No
<u>SMELTERTOWN SITE</u>	8	Colorado	COD983769738	Proposed	No
<u>SILVER MOUNTAIN MINE</u>	10	Washington	WAD980722789	Deleted	No
<u>SILVER BOW CREEK/BUTTE AREA</u>	8	Montana	MTD980502777	Final	No
<u>SHIELDALLOY CORP.</u>	2	New Jersey	NJD002365930	Final	No
<u>SHARON STEEL CORP. (MIDVALE TAILINGS)</u>	8	Utah	UTD980951388	Deleted	No
<u>SANDOVAL ZINC COMPANY</u>	5	Illinois	ILD053980454	Final	No
<u>SALT CHUCK MINE</u>	10	Alaska	AK0001897602	Final	No
<u>RIO TINTO COPPER MINE</u>	9	Nevada	NV3141190030	non-NPL	Yes
<u>RICHARDSON FLAT TAILINGS</u>	8	Utah	UTD980952840	Proposed	No
<u>REYNOLDS METALS COMPANY</u>	10	Oregon	ORD009412677	Final	No
<u>PIKE HILL COPPER MINE</u>	1	Vermont	VTD988366720	Final	No
<u>PALMERTON ZINC PILE</u>	3	Pennsylvania	PAD002395887	Final	No
<u>ORONOGO-DUENWEG MINING BELT</u>	7	Missouri	MOD980686281	Final	No
<u>ORMET CORP.</u>	5	Ohio	OHD004379970	Final	No
<u>ORE KNOB MINE</u>	4	North Carolina	NCN000409895	Final	No
<u>OMAHA LEAD</u>	7	Nebraska	NESFN0703481	Final	No

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Site Name	Region	State	EPA ID	NPL Status	SAA?
<u>OLD AMERICAN ZINC PLANT</u>	5	Illinois	IL0000034355	Final	Yes
<u>NEWTON COUNTY MINE TAILINGS</u>	7	Missouri	MOD981507585	Final	No
<u>NEW IDRIA MERCURY MINE</u>	9	California	CA0001900463	Final	No
<u>NELSON TUNNEL/COMMODORE WASTE ROCK</u>	8	Colorado	CON000802630	Final	No
<u>NATIONAL ZINC CORP.</u>	6	Oklahoma	OKD000829440	Proposed	No
<u>NATIONAL SOUTHWIRE ALUMINUM CO.</u>	4	Kentucky	KYD049062375	Deleted	No
<u>MURRAY SMELTER</u>	8	Utah	UTD980951420	Proposed	No
<u>MOUAT INDUSTRIES</u>	8	Montana	MTD021997689	Final	No
<u>MONTICELLO RADIOACTIVELY CONTAMINATED PROPERTIES</u>	8	Utah	UTD980667208	Deleted	No
<u>MONTICELLO MILL TAILINGS (USDOE)</u>	8	Utah	UT3890090035	Final	No
<u>MONTCLAIR/WEST ORANGE RADIUM SITE</u>	2	New Jersey	NJD980785653	Deleted	No
<u>MONSANTO CHEMICAL CO. (SODA SPRINGS PLANT)</u>	10	Idaho	IDD081830994	Final	No
<u>MILLTOWN RESERVOIR SEDIMENTS</u>	8	Montana	MTD980717565	Final	No
<u>MIDVALE SLAG</u>	8	Utah	UTD081834277	Deleted	No
<u>MIDNITE MINE</u>	10	Washington	WAD980978753	Final	No
<u>MAYWOOD CHEMICAL CO.</u>	2	New Jersey	NJD980529762	Final	No
<u>MATTHIESSEN AND HEGELER ZINC COMPANY</u>	5	Illinois	IL0000064782	Final	No
<u>MARTIN-MARIETTA ALUMINUM CO.</u>	10	Oregon	ORD052221025	Deleted	No
<u>MADISON COUNTY MINES</u>	7	Missouri	MOD098633415	Final	No
<u>MACALLOY CORPORATION</u>	4	South Carolina	SCD003360476	Final	No
<u>LINCOLN PARK</u>	8	Colorado	COD042167858	Final	No
<u>LIBBY ASBESTOS SITE</u>	8	Montana	MT0009083840	Final	No
<u>LI TUNGSTEN CORP.</u>	2	New York	NYD986882660	Final	No

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Site Name	Region	State	EPA ID	NPL Status	SAA?
<u>LEVIATHAN MINE</u>	9	California	CAD980673685	Final	No
<u>LAVA CAP MINE</u>	9	California	CAD983618893	Final	No
<u>KLAU/BUENA VISTA MINE</u>	9	California	CA1141190578	Final	No
<u>KENNECOTT (SOUTH ZONE)</u>	8	Utah	UTD000826404	non-NPL	Yes
<u>KENNECOTT (NORTH ZONE)</u>	8	Utah	UTD070926811	Proposed	No
<u>KAISER ALUMINUM (MEAD WORKS)</u>	10	Washington	WAD000065508	Final	No
<u>JACOBS SMELTER</u>	8	Utah	UT0002391472	Final	No
<u>JACKS CREEK/SITKIN SMELTING & REFINING, INC.</u>	3	Pennsylvania	PAD980829493	Final	No
<u>JACKPILE-PAGUATE URANIUM MINE</u>	6	New Mexico	NMN000607033	Final	No
<u>IRON MOUNTAIN MINE</u>	9	California	CAD980498612	Final	No
<u>IRON KING MINE - HUMBOLDT SMELTER</u>	9	Arizona	AZ0000309013	Final	No
<u>INTERNATIONAL SMELTING AND REFINING</u>	8	Utah	UTD093120921	Deleted	No
<u>HOMESTAKE MINING CO.</u>	6	New Mexico	NMD007860935	Final	No
<u>HENRY'S KNOB</u>	4	South Carolina	SCN000407376	non-NPL	Yes
<u>HEGELER ZINC</u>	5	Illinois	ILN000508134	Final	No
<u>GLEN RIDGE RADIUM SITE</u>	2	New Jersey	NJD980785646	Deleted	No
<u>GILT EDGE MINE</u>	8	South Dakota	SDD987673985	Final	No
<u>FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST/WHITE KING AND LUCKY LASS URANIUM MINES (USDA)</u>	10	Oregon	OR7122307658	Final	No
<u>FRANKLIN SLAG PILE (MDC)</u>	3	Pennsylvania	PASFN0305549	Final	No
<u>FORMOSA MINE</u>	10	Oregon	ORN001002616	Final	No
<u>FORMER UNITED ZINC & ASSOCIATED SMELTERS</u>	7	Kansas	KSN000705026	Final	No
<u>FOOTE MINERAL CO.</u>	3	Pennsylvania	PAD077087989	Final	No
<u>FLAT CREEK IMM</u>	8	Montana	MT0012694970	Final	No

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<u>EUREKA MILLS</u>	8	Utah	UT0002240158	Final	No
<u>ELY COPPER MINE</u>	1	Vermont	VTD988366571	Final	No
<u>ELIZABETH MINE</u>	1	Vermont	VTD988366621	Final	No
<u>EASTERN MICHAUD FLATS CONTAMINATION</u>	10	Idaho	IDD984666610	Final	No
<u>EAST HELENA SITE</u>	8	Montana	MTD006230346	Final	No
<u>EAGLE ZINC CO DIV T L DIAMOND</u>	5	Illinois	ILD980606941	Final	No
<u>EAGLE MINE</u>	8	Colorado	COD081961518	Final	No
<u>DEPUE/NEW JERSEY ZINC/MOBIL CHEMICAL CORP.</u>	5	Illinois	ILD062340641	Final	No
<u>DENVER RADIUM SITE</u>	8	Colorado	COD980716955	Final	No
<u>DAVENPORT AND FLAGSTAFF SMELTERS</u>	8	Utah	UTD988075719	Final	No
<u>CYPRUS TOHONO MINE</u>	9	Arizona	AZD094524097	non-NPL	Yes
<u>COPPER BASIN MINING DISTRICT</u>	4	Tennessee	TN0001890839	non-NPL	Yes
<u>COMMENCEMENT BAY, NEAR SHORE/TIDE FLATS</u>	10	Washington	WAD980726368	Final	No
<u>COLORADO SMELTER</u>	8	Colorado	CON000802700	Final	No
<u>COALINGA ASBESTOS MINE</u>	9	California	CAD980817217	Deleted	No
<u>CLEVELAND MILL</u>	6	New Mexico	NMD981155930	Deleted	No
<u>CIRCLE SMELTING CORP.</u>	5	Illinois	ILD050231976	Proposed	No
<u>CIMARRON MINING CORP.</u>	6	New Mexico	NMD980749378	Final	No
<u>CHEVRON QUESTA MINE</u>	6	New Mexico	NMD002899094	Final	No
<u>CHEROKEE COUNTY</u>	7	Kansas	KSD980741862	Final	No
<u>CHEMET CO.</u>	4	Tennessee	TND987768546	Deleted	No
<u>CENTRAL CITY, CLEAR CREEK</u>	8	Colorado	COD980717557	Final	No
<u>CELTOR CHEMICAL WORKS</u>	9	California	CAD980638860	Deleted	No

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Site Name	Region	State	EPA ID	NPL Status	SAA?
<u>CARSON RIVER MERCURY SITE</u>	9	Nevada	NVD980813646	Final	No
<u>CARPENTER SNOW CREEK MINING DISTRICT</u>	8	Montana	MT0001096353	Final	No
<u>CAPTAIN JACK MILL</u>	8	Colorado	COD981551427	Final	No
<u>CALLAHAN MINING CORP</u>	1	Maine	MED980524128	Final	No
<u>CALIFORNIA GULCH</u>	8	Colorado	COD980717938	Final	No
<u>BUNKER HILL MINING & METALLURGICAL COMPLEX</u>	10	Idaho	IDD048340921	Final	No
<u>BREWER GOLD MINE</u>	4	South Carolina	SCD987577913	Final	No
<u>BONITA PEAK MINING DISTRICT</u>	8	Colorado	CON000802497	Proposed	No
<u>BLUE LEDGE MINE</u>	9	California	CAN000906063	Final	No
<u>BLACKBIRD MINE</u>	10	Idaho	IDD980725832	Proposed	No
<u>BLACK BUTTE MINE</u>	10	Oregon	OR0000515759	Final	No
<u>BIG RIVER MINE TAILINGS/ST. JOE MINERALS CORP.</u>	7	Missouri	MOD981126899	Final	No
<u>BAUTSCH-GRAY MINE</u>	5	Illinois	ILN000510407	Final	No
<u>BASIN MINING AREA</u>	8	Montana	MTD982572562	Final	No
<u>BARKER HUGHESVILLE MINING DISTRICT</u>	8	Montana	MT6122307485	Final	No
<u>BARITE HILL/NEVADA GOLDFIELDS</u>	4	South Carolina	SCN000407714	Final	No
<u>AUSTIN AVENUE RADIATION SITE</u>	3	Pennsylvania	PAD987341716	Deleted	No
<u>ATLAS ASBESTOS MINE</u>	9	California	CAD980496863	Final	No
<u>ASARCO TAYLOR SPRINGS</u>	5	Illinois	ILN000508170	Final	No
<u>ASARCO HAYDEN PLANT</u>	9	Arizona	AZD008397127	non-NPL	Yes
<u>ARGONAUT MINE</u>	9	California	CAD983650011	Proposed	No
<u>ANNAPOLIS LEAD MINE</u>	7	Missouri	MO0000958611	Final	No

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<u>ANACONDA CO. SMELTER</u>	8	Montana	MTD093291656	Final	No
<u>ANACONDA ALUMINUM CO COLUMBIA FALLS REDUCTION PLANT</u>	8	Montana	MTD057561763	Proposed	No
<u>AMBLER ASBESTOS PILES</u>	3	Pennsylvania	PAD000436436	Deleted	No
<u>ALCOA PROPERTIES</u>	5	Illinois	ILSFN0508010	non-NPL	Yes
<u>ALCOA (VANCOUVER SMELTER)</u>	10	Washington	WAD009045279	Deleted	No
<u>ACM SMELTER AND REFINERY</u>	8	Montana	MTD093291599	Final	No